

THE CHAMPION

A NEWSPAPER OF TODAY

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Brevard county will have a wet and dry election next week

The big DeSoto county write-up in the Tampa Tribune will be out about January 3, 1909.

The mild, sunshiny weather we are having indicates that this will be a "green" Christmas. But did Florida ever have any other kind?

Plant City is shipping strawberries. About 5,000 quarts have already been sent to northern markets. The price is now down to 30 cents per quart.

The annual conference of the Methodist church of Florida, is in session at Miami this week, at which time and place appointments for the coming year will be made.

Postmaster Green of Arcadia, is always alive to the interests of his patrons. He furnishes, free, an old barrel in the outer room for the convenience of those who are troubled by liquor advertisement circulars.

The postmasters are the most overworked, people now of all Uncle Sam's servants. But just imagine what they will suffer when we have a parcels post added to our other public utilities.

The colored people of Florida in several of our cities are making elaborate preparations to celebrate Emancipation day on January 1. In Tampa are 12,000 colored persons who are making ready for a big time on that day.

The Tampa Tribune announces that its Christmas edition brought out next Sunday will be sent to all the voters in nine counties, and DeSoto is one of the nine. Every family will be sure of having at least one Christmas present.

The St. Petersburg Independent has changed proprietors, editor Powell retiring and Lew B. Brown of Harrodsburg, Ky., taking his place. The new editor has, according to Mr. Powell, "been publishing the model weekly newspaper of Kentucky," and will be heartily welcomed by the Florida fraternity, and Mr. Powell will be sincerely regretted. We trust the latter has been in the state long enough to have sand stick in his shoes so he cannot remain away should he choose to go.

Numbers of our state exchanges are already out with Christmas editions of great size and merit. The Times-Union and Jacksonville Metropolis of last Sunday led in the list. The Tampa Times came Tuesday and the Tribune is promised for next Sunday, and others are on the way. We rejoice in the enterprise of our great dailies and are thankful for the Christmas cheer that pervades the state, newspapers and all. "Peace on earth, Good will to man," is still the most beneficent benediction ever given to humanity, altho the shepherds that first heard the song have lain many centuries dead.

One of the main features in the special edition of the Tampa Tribune, descriptive of DeSoto county which will be issued within the next three weeks will be the publishing of letters of testimony from farmers, fruit and vegetable growers, showing the success they have made in their lines. These letters will be published over the signatures of the parties giving them, and will prove to be the most conclusive evidence that can be produced to substantiate our claims that DeSoto is the best and thriftiest county in the state. We will be glad to have every grower in our section write THE CHAMPION a letter descriptive of their operations. We will turn this information over to the Tampa Tribune's agents and they will be sent all over the United States and will be of most benefit to our city and adjoining country. Please attend to this at once and send in your experience to us in writing. All letters must be in before December 25. Another feature will be the publishing of photographs of the babies of DeSoto county. A number have already been secured, but there is room for many more. Send the photographs of your little ones in to THE CHAMPION, with the name of the little one and to whom the photo is to be returned written on the back of the photo.

Presbyterian Church
Rev. H. Keigwin pastor.
Services every Sunday 11 a. m.
and 7:15 p. m.
Sunday school 10 a. m.
Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:15 p. m.

We regret to lose the valuable services of Mrs. Rapalje who goes with her husband to Ocala. We are all grateful for the splendid help she has given in the choir during the year and they will be followed to their new home with the best wishes of the congregation. The subject of our sacramental meditations Sunday morning was

BODILY SERVICE FOR CHRIST

And the texts were found in Rom. 6:13, Rom. 12:1 and I Cor. 6:20. "But yield yourselves unto God as those who are alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God." "Ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God with your bodies and your spirits which are Gods", "the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Also, "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God", etc.

The distinguished Dr. Jonathan Edwards, when he came to Christ, wrote out his consecration in a formal covenant, in which he dedicated not only his mind and heart, but in minute specification he mentioned the members of his body, "as instruments of righteousness" for the service of God.

And though nothing less than this is contemplated in the Bible, as the full surrender which God expects of man somehow the generality of Christian people satisfy themselves with the surrender of the mind and the heart the Savior and think their whole duty discharged in the worship of God in the closet of prayer and the services of the church. But the word of God is clear and distinct. "Ye are not your own, but are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your BODY and your spirit which are God's."

CHRIST IS MASTER

as well as Savior, and the very title Lord carries with it the idea of bodily service, and unless our loving loyalty and trustfulness in Christ coins itself into active service for our needy and suffering fellow-men, unless it manifests itself in "visiting the fatherless and the widow in their affliction," it is not the pure religion and undefiled, which is contemplated in the word of God. Faith in the heart is only sentimentalism unless it embodies itself in doing with our might what our hands find to do in the active service of suffering humanity.

THE JUDGMENT TEST OF CHARACTER

as given by the Savior plainly implies that our future destiny depends not only upon thinking right with the mind and feeling right with the heart, but DOING right with the activities of bodily service. "Inasmuch as ye DID it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye did it unto me."

MODERN CHRISTIANITY ACTIVE.

There may not be in the religion of today as much heart examination and closet prayer, or so-called piety as our Puritan forefathers displayed and stressed so heavily, but the church of today is exhibiting more muscular christianity and more active benevolence than in former days. The multiplication of hospitals and orphanages and asylums and University settlements and institutional churches, is evidence that religion is reaching the will power and Christians are

yielding their members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

CHRISTIANITY IS SACRIFICE.

"Present your bodies a sacrifice." Love to God or man without sacrifice is only empty sentiment. "Actions speak louder than words." "He that hath my commandments and doeth them he it is that loveth me."

The lamb of the morning and evening sacrifice was a fitting symbol. Dead to the world and wholly given up to God and Christianity contemplates.

"All to Jesus I surrender,
I surrender all."

THE MOTIVE

for this life of sacrifice for God is the gratified affection of the soul for "the mercies of God" as seen in the sacrifice of Christ. "This is my body which was broken for you," said the Savior and surely it is only the prompting of gratitude to devote our bodies as living sacrifices to Him who sacrificed His body on the cross for us.

A slave girl was purchased by a benevolent man when she was upon the slave block and he offered her her freedom. When she realized the kindness of the man who had made so great a sacrifice for her, she said, "No, I do not want my freedom. It shall be my pleasure to serve all my life the kind and merciful man who made so great a sacrifice for a poor slave girl. Jesus redeemed us with his own blood, and if thus purchased at at such costly sacrifice surely we should yield ourselves unto God as those alive from the dead and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

Fourth Sunday in Advent

At St. Edmund's Church, Sunday next before Christmas. Bishop Gray will preach at both morning and evening next Sunday. All are invited. Holy Confirmation on the laying on of hands, by an apostle, will be administered.

Commissioner Holzendorf

EDITOR CHAMPION:—Seeing your article in last week's issue of THE CHAMPION concerning the good roads and the good work of our county commissioner, the Hon. R. L. Holzendorf, I will not only endorse what you have said, but emphasize what you said and add my little mite.

When we take into consideration the fact of the way Mr. Holzendorf has been handicapped by both misfortune and affliction during his tenure of office, and then to witness how he has brought order out of chaos, we think he is not only deserving the commendation, but also the gratitude of the traveling public.

One feature we like about Mr. Holzendorf, he did nothing hastily, especially in regard to establishing a new road; and again, conflicting factions had to harmonize before he would take action, which was the wise and proper course to pursue.

We are of the opinion that the road money of this district, or any other district in the county, has not been handled in a more judicious manner than that by the Hon. R. L. Holzendorf.

We believe that we are voicing the sentiment of a score of others, that the traveling public will ever hold Mr. Holzendorf in grateful remembrance for the masterly manner in which he has managed the public road question of his district. Speaking of the Hon. R. L. Holzendorf and his family, we love them for their whole-souled hospitality for which they have become proverbial. We know, we have tested it.

W. R. VARN.

Kuhlman, Fla., Dec. 14, 1908.

A Michigan firm paid \$250,000 cash for 35,000 acres of timbered land in Hillsboro county this week

Timely Views and News

Many fast American horses are participating in Havana, Cuba races this week.

Congressman Sparkman has the distinction of being able to secure more pensions for his constituents than any other member of Congress.

Madame Catherine Tingley, the leader of theosophy colony at Port Loma, California, passed through Tampa this week, enroute home from a visit to Cuba. She should locate in Florida.

Tom Longboat, a Canadian Indian, won the Marathon running race in New York this week, over Italian, Dorando. The twenty-six miles were made in the incredible time of two hours, forty-five minutes and five seconds.

Our correspondents are so busy getting ready for Christmas that they could not gather the usual local news which means that we won't have any time to be ready for Christmas, and it looks like we will have Christmas, either.

It is stated that the Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma to the number of several thousand, are preparing to move to the republic of Mexico. Chief Dick is in the city of Mexico negotiating for a large tract of land on which to locate his people.

St Petersburg is getting ready for the annual session of the Chataqua that is held in that city during the last of February and first of March. The thousands of tourists who visit that city every winter find this Chataqua a great pleasure and attraction.

Ex-Senator Call has many old-time friends in South Florida who will learn with concern that after posing as an Independent during the last election, he has recently come out as a Republican. He has no followers and the change in his politics will scarcely affect the state destinies.

President Roosevelt is justly exasperated at the belated arraignment of several prominent newspaper editors of the nation that charge the administration with fraud in connection with the Panama canal. Freedom of the press should not be allowed to go beyond decency and truth.

The final count of the votes cast in the November national elections shows that Taft received more than a million more votes than Bryan. The socialist comes next, then the prohibition, while the independent comes after with twice the votes of the popular party. The total vote cast was 14,852,239.

If those of our subscribers and patrons who are able to save a little money from their Christmas buying and send or hand it to THE CHAMPION we are able to pay our bills and have enough left for a Christmas dinner. Think of it, friends. We are not asking for presents. We simply want what is due. All the same if you will pay up we will feel as if Christmas had come.

The rage for fairs is extending in Florida. In the one in Tampa in February and the one in Jacksonville in January, our smaller cities are entering the arena. Miami has one every winter and Ocala has three days' fair this week. Lakeland has one and there are others. Public sentiment is being aroused in various sections on this subject, and well. Let us stir up public spirit until we get out of the lethargy which has so deadened our energies. Perhaps we can enlighten others as to our real needs and benefit others by so doing.

Home Mission Hymn (Tune America.)

God save our native land,
Long may her banners stand
Peerless and free;
Long may thy gospel sound,
Echo our land around
Till all is hallowed ground,
Sacred to Thee.

God bless the herald band
Speeding at thy command,
O'er land and sea;
Waft thou their tidings bright
On wings of love and light,
Till vale and mountain height
Sing praise to Thee.

Our Father's God we pray
Speed Thou the glorious day
From sea to sea;
When weary pilgrim bands
Gather from all the lands,
Join loving hearts and hands
All one in Thee.